

implementation by Russia of its commitment to withdraw its remaining military forces from Moldova;

Whereas Secretary of State Colin Powell stated at the December 2004 OSCE Ministerial in Sofia, Bulgaria, that "Russia's commitments to withdraw its military forces from Moldova, and to agree with Georgia on the duration of the Russian military presence there, remain unfulfilled. A core principle of the CFE Treaty is host country agreement to the stationing of forces. The United States remains committed to moving ahead with ratification of the Adapted CFE Treaty, but we will only do so after all the Istanbul commitments on Georgia and Moldova have been met. And we stand ready to assist with reasonable costs associated with the implementation of those commitments.";

Whereas since June 2004, Russia has called for the closure of the OSCE Border Monitoring Operation (BMO), the sole source of objective reporting on border crossings along the border between Georgia and with the Russian republics of Chechnya, Dagestan, and Ingushetia;

Whereas OSCE border monitors took up their mission in Georgia in May 2000, and prior to the failure to extend the mandate for the BMO in December 2004, OSCE border monitors, who are unarmed, were deployed at nine locations along that border;

Whereas the current rotation of the BMO includes 65 border monitors from 23 countries, including Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Hungary, Ireland, Lithuania, Macedonia, Moldova, Poland, Romania, Russia, Slovakia, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Kingdom, and the United States;

Whereas at the December 2004 OSCE Ministerial, Russia blocked renewal of the mandate for the BMO in Georgia;

Whereas Russia has stated that the BMO has accomplished nothing, but it has in fact accomplished a great deal, including observing 746 unarmed and 61 armed border crossings in 2004 and serving as a counterweight to inflammatory press reports;

Whereas in response to Russian complaints about the cost-effectiveness of the BMO, the OSCE agreed in December 2004 to cut the number of monitors and thereby reduce the cost of the BMO by almost half;

Whereas the BMO began shutting down on January 1, 2005;

Whereas the staff of the BMO is now dismantling facilities and is not performing its mission;

Whereas the shutdown of the BMO will become irreversible in the second half of March 2005 and is currently scheduled to be completed by May 2005;

Whereas the United States has reiterated its disappointment over the failure of the Permanent Council of the OSCE to reach consensus on renewing the mandate of the BMO, despite request of Georgia, the host country of the BMO, that the OSCE continue the border monitoring operation, and the consensus of all states but one to extend the mandate for the BMO; and

Whereas United States Ambassador to the United States Mission to the OSCE, Stephan M. Minikes, said in a statement to the OSCE Permanent Council in Vienna on January 19, 2005, that "we believe that the closure of the BMO would remove a key source of peaceful relations and of objective reporting on events at the sensitive border and increase the likelihood of heightened Russia-Georgia tensions.";

Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that the United States should—

(1) urge Russia to live up to its commitments at the 1999 Organization for Security

and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Summit in Istanbul regarding Georgia and Moldova;

(2) in cooperation with its European allies, maintain strong diplomatic pressure to permit the OSCE Border Monitoring Operation (BMO) in Georgia to continue; and

(3) if the BMO ceases to exist, seek, in cooperation with its European allies, an international presence to monitor objectively border crossings along the border between Georgia and the Russian republics of Chechnya, Dagestan, and Ingushetia.

NATIONAL SAFE PLACE WEEK

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of and the Senate now proceed to consider S. Res. 71.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 71) designating the week beginning March 13, 2005 as National Safe Place Week.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. I will not object, but I ask unanimous consent to be added as a cosponsor to this resolution.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the Craig amendment be agreed to, the resolution, as amended, be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 139) was agreed to as follows:

(Purpose: to strike the request for a Presidential proclamation in the National Safe Place Week resolution)

In Section (2), strike "requests that the President issue a proclamation calling" and replace with "calls".

The resolution (S. Res. 71), as amended, was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 71

Whereas today's youth are vital to the preservation of our country and will be the future bearers of the bright torch of democracy;

Whereas youth need a safe haven from various negative influences such as child abuse, substance abuse and crime, and they need to have resources readily available to assist them when faced with circumstances that compromise their safety;

Whereas the United States needs increased numbers of community volunteers acting as positive influences on the Nation's youth;

Whereas the Safe Place program is committed to protecting our Nation's most valuable asset, our youth, by offering short term "safe places" at neighborhood locations where trained volunteers are available to counsel and advise youth seeking assistance and guidance;

Whereas the Safe Place program combines the efforts of the private sector and non-

profit organizations uniting to reach youth in the early stages of crisis;

Whereas the Safe Place program provides a direct way to assist programs in meeting performance standards relative to outreach and community relations, as set forth in the Federal Runaway and Homeless Youth Act guidelines;

Whereas the Safe Place placard displayed at businesses within communities stands as a beacon of safety and refuge to at-risk youth;

Whereas more than 700 communities in 41 states and more than 14,000 locations have established Safe Place programs;

Whereas more than 75,000 young people have gone to Safe Place locations to get help when faced with crisis situations;

Whereas through the efforts of Safe Place coordinators across the country each year more than one-half million students learn that Safe Place is a resource if abusive or neglectful situations exist; and

Whereas increased awareness of the program's existence will encourage communities to establish Safe Places for the Nation's youth throughout the country: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) proclaims the week of March 13 through March 19, 2005 as "National Safe Place Week" and

(2) calls upon the people of the United States and interested groups to promote awareness of and volunteer involvement in the Safe Place programs, and to observe the week with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

EXPANDED MUSEUM COMPLEX AT YAD VASHEM

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 79 submitted earlier today by Senators CORZINE and LAUTENBERG.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 79) expressing the sense of the Senate in marking the dedication on March 15, 2005, of the expanded museum complex at Yad Vashem, the Holocaust Martyrs and Heroes Remembrance Authority in Israel, in furtherance of Yad Vashem's mission to document the history of the Jewish people during the Holocaust, to preserve the memory and story of each of the victims, impart the legacy of the Holocaust to future generations, and recognize the Righteous Among the Nations.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution and preamble be agreed to en bloc, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, that any statements relating thereto be printed in the RECORD, without intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 79) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 79

Whereas 6,000,000 Jews were slaughtered in the Holocaust solely because of the faith into which they were born;